

Community Gathering Spaces and Placemaking in the City of Rosemount

Prepared by

Students in LS 5100: Revitalizing Environmental Reform:
Reimagining the Arts for Public Parks
University of Minnesota
Instructor: Roslye Ultan

On behalf of

The City of Rosemount

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The Resilient Communities Project

Resilient Communities Project

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Introduction

This report is a compilation of work produced by students in LS 5100: Revitalizing Environmental Reform—Reimagining the Arts for Public Parks, taught by Roslye Ultan during fall semester 2014 at the University of Minnesota. The project was part of the 2014–2015 Resilient Communities Project–City of Rosemount partnership, which included work on 29 community-identified projects.

One of the projects proposed by the City of Rosemount focused on opportunities to capitalize on and maximize the benefits of public spaces in the community. By definition, parks are a gathering space for active and passive uses. However, the City would like city parks to become destinations in themselves, both because of the activities programmed in these spaces and because of the attributes of the spaces themselves.

In addition, Rosemount has an historic downtown characterized by a relatively dense development pattern compared to the rest of the community. The Steeple Center, a public assembly space, is located in downtown adjacent to a public activity center, the Dakota County Robert Trail Library, and a multiunit private senior housing project that was under construction at the time this work was undertaken. This redevelopment project provides an opportunity to create an important public open space.

In engaging students in LS 5100 to work on this project, the City was interested in answers to the following questions/issues:

- What are the characteristics of place making in a suburban setting?
- What opportunities are available to transform existing public gathering spaces in Rosemount into destinations through redesign of these spaces?
- What opportunities exist for creating new public gathering spaces within the context of Rosemount's existing development pattern?
- Concept design ideas for the public gathering place in the Steeple Center redevelopment project



COMMUNITY GATHERING SPACES

Examining the Possibilities for Rosemount

Prepared for the City of Rosemount
for the Resilient Communities Project
by Katrina Nygaard 12.16.14



COMMUNITY GATHERING SPACES

Place Attachment + Community Gathering

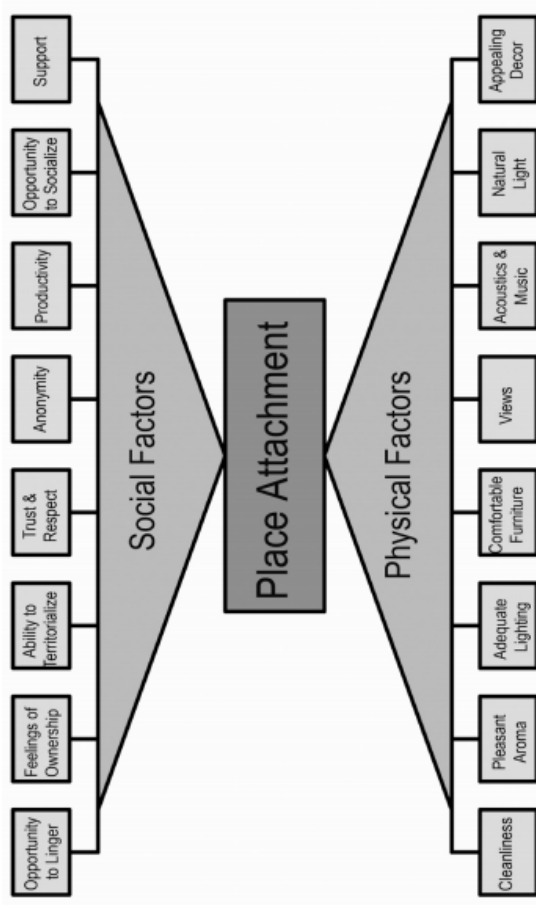
Third spaces, or spaces outside of the workplace and home, are important for building strong communities. These spaces help people connect within their community around shared interests (Waxman, 35). If successful, third spaces not only serve to connect people, but become a place the users will defend and protect. This willingness to defend a place can be attributed to a sense of place attachment. In other words, “attachment to place is a set of feelings that emotionally binds people to a particular place” (Waxman, 36). Many things can contribute to place attachment including social and physical factors. Successful places connect community through trust, support and opportunities to socialize and are comfortable and appealing to be in. Great gathering spaces can be public or private, active or passive, indoor or outdoor. This report analyzes a variety of different community gathering space typologies and their applications within the City of Rosemount.

Project

This guide and map serve as a way for the City of Rosemount to better understand how people use spaces and what types of spaces can foster community gathering. The report connects academic research, case studies and theory to real examples within the City of Rosemount. Community gathering spaces have been categorized into the following types:

- Parks + Community Centers
- Libraries
- Schools
- Churches
- Community Gardens
- Fitness Centers
- Cafes + Coffee Shops

By highlighting the strengths and weaknesses of each type of community gathering space, the City can successfully guide future development of these types of spaces. As a companion to the written report, the guide includes a map of Rosemount. Different types of gathering spaces are mapped throughout the community. Some spaces also have “call outs” which provide more detailed information for potential users. By including this extra layer of information, the map can serve as a guide to residents of Rosemount about the many different gathering spaces within their city. By engaging in and building upon these gathering spaces, Rosemount’s residents can connect to create a more resilient community.



Factors influencing place attachment
(Waxman, 50)



COMMUNITY GATHERING SPACES

Parks + Community Centers

Public parks and community centers provide an important role in developing spaces for gathering in the city and provide the unique opportunity to connect diverse residents. Parks “provide recreation, educational and social programs, and relaxation for an increasingly multicultural and multiclass population” (Low, Taplin & Scheld, 11). Successful parks represent the needs and history of their many users. In Prospect Park in Brooklyn, a highly varied park and gathering space, separate areas are set aside for facilities for large group parties, concerts and walking or biking trails. These areas help park users to find a space and activity that is best for them (Low, Taplin & Scheld, 65). If park designers consider the many needs of their users, the parks become interpreted as more open and inclusionary to all residents. Because of the many activities that take place in parks and their potential to target certain groups, they are often the sites of “place attachment” (Low, Taplin & Scheld, 15). In other words, successful parks are not only a gathering space, but a place that the community is attached to.

Local Example: The Rosemount Parks System + Community Center

Rosemount has a robust park system consisting of 27 parks. These range in size from small neighborhood parks to large, regional nature centers (City of Rosemount, Parks). Their programming includes playgrounds, sports fields, picnic areas, walking and bicycling trails, and nature areas. This range of activities help to make the parks spaces for many residents to gather and recreate. The city also has a community center which serves as an indoor community space. The community center houses multipurpose rooms and an auditorium and also is home to the Parks and Recreation Department. The center hosts community events and is also available for rental for other events (City of Rosemount, Community Center). The combination of the outdoor parks and indoor community center create a set of gathering space for the residents of Rosemount that can be used year-round.



Bloomfield Park, Rosemount



Schwarz Pond Park, Rosemount



COMMUNITY GATHERING SPACES

Libraries

Libraries present the opportunity for residents to engage with each other in diverse ways. In addition to providing ample resources including books and computers, libraries can function as a social space as well. While the most common activities in libraries are reading and writing, there is also a social element to libraries (Given & Leckie, 381). Group work spaces, study rooms and meeting spaces provide opportunities for residents to gather (Given & Leckie, 382). Similarly, classes and programming help to connect residents around shared interests. The diversity of people within libraries help to make them “vibrant social spaces where people engage in a wide range of activities” (Given & Leckie, 384).

Like parks, libraries face challenges of being public gathering spaces. While they are free, and classes may be low cost, they are often short on funding or staff. Limited hours, particularly in the evenings, can be prohibitive for families and residents who work during the day. Offering after school programming for children and evening programming for adults can help to provide a space where residents of all ages can gather and learn.

Local Example: Robert Trail Library

The Robert Trail Library is located in Downtown Rosemount and is a part of the Dakota County library system. The library serves as a central gathering space for the community because of the diversity of activities that happen there. Open daily, patrons can use the library for reading, checking out books, working and using the computers. The library also offers special programming for adults, teens and youth (Dakota County Library). Some of these events include story time for all ages, special lectures, and the Robert Trail Book Club. Similarly, the library offers classes such as arts and crafts, drawing, computer skills, and money management. These classes and events attract diverse residents from the community to gather around shared interests.



Wikimapia

Robert Trail Library



Armstrong

Robert Trail Library, Interior



COMMUNITY GATHERING SPACES

Schools

Schools provide a rich opportunity for community gathering, particularly in smaller, rural or suburban communities. Research by Northwest Regional Lab in Portland Oregon suggests that “schools, when working in partnership with local leaders and residents, can have a positive impact on community vitality” (Miller, 1). Schools present opportunities for youth and adults through education, exchange of ideas and entertainment.

For youth, schools serve as an educational and social space. Daily classes, clubs and activities help to connect children from across the community. The diversity of students within a classroom facilitates discussion and connections. Similarly, after school programming such as music, sports, academic clubs and theater, help to connect students with similar interests and creates a social space that can be highly productive in the performance of the students. For older students, job training programs and internships are an opportunity to connect with the local business community and provide youth valuable skills in obtaining future employment (Miller, 6). Together, the classroom experience and numerous activities help to create a gathering space for young people.

Schools also can serve as a gathering space for adults. Typically, schools have organizations such as Parent Teacher Associations that regularly meet to discuss and plan for changes in the school. These meetings connect parents and help them make real change in their community. Programs such as community adult education can take advantage of unique spaces in the school after hours. For example, the school may have access to computer labs, gymnasiums or woodworking shops that can be used by adults in the community (Miller, 6). As discussed in the previous paragraph, adults can also partner with youth through internship or apprenticeship programs at local businesses. These partnerships will help youth and adults to “engage in meaningful community based learning experiences and connect generations (Miller, 4-5).

Local Example: Independent School District 196

In Rosemount, the local high school and middle school as well as the private schools can serve to meet some of these community needs. District 196’s community education program is already robust, offering over 175 courses for all ages from preschool children to seniors in swimming lessons, arts and crafts, computer skills and languages (District 196). Similarly, the Rosemount Fighting Irish sports teams provide opportunities for the community to rally behind the students as they compete against other suburban schools in the area. This array of activities and potential users help to make the schools in Rosemount a gathering space for much of the community.



Wikimedia Commons

Rosemount High School



COMMUNITY GATHERING SPACES

Churches + Religious Organizations

Religious organizations provide an important role in connecting community residents. Churches, synagogues, temples, and mosques all provide a physical space for groups to practice their religious beliefs. These spaces represent a group of people who share common beliefs who are looking to work with others to celebrate those ideas. This shared identity helps to create a sense of place in the city and builds a network of support for residents (Baker, 127). While entirely separate from government, these institutions provide an important opportunity for connecting residents and serving their communities.

Weekly services and small group programming help to make religious organizations major connection points within the community. They serve both as a space of worship, but also help to establish a network among their members. This network generates a sense of belonging and also helps to empower members to make changes in their community (Baker, 131). One challenge associated with churches is that, because of their religious affiliation, some residents of the community may feel alienated and choose not to participate. This exclusionary aspect of churches can be problematic, particularly in areas where the church is the dominant gathering space in the city. Despite these challenges, religious organizations' commitment to strengthening networks in and out of their membership can help to alleviate some of these tensions.

Religious organizations also typically have a presence within the larger community. Often religious teachings dictate an active presence in the city by assisting those in need. Block parties and fundraisers, food drives, care for the elderly and neighborhood beautification are all examples of the community service aspect of these institutions. This focus on local service is particularly important with growing and diversifying populations. It helps to unite people on a local level and minimize polarization from within the community (Baker, 125).

Local Example: World Wide Lighthouse

The World Wide Lighthouse Church is located in the City of Rosemount and serves a large population through their weekly services and programming. Their Common Grounds Coffee House is a particularly interesting element of their weekly schedule. The coffee shop serves as a place for churchgoers to gather before and after services to enjoy coffee, tea and snacks. Additionally, the coffee shop hosts small group discussions and monthly "open-mic" performances, which target the larger Rosemount population. By donating the profits of the shop to local charities, the church is able to give back to the community financially as well (World Wide Lighthouse). The diverse programming and flexibility of the coffee shop makes World Wide Lighthouse a gathering space for church members and the broader community.



Community of Hope Church, Rosemount



Common Grounds Coffee House



COMMUNITY GATHERING SPACES

Community Gardens

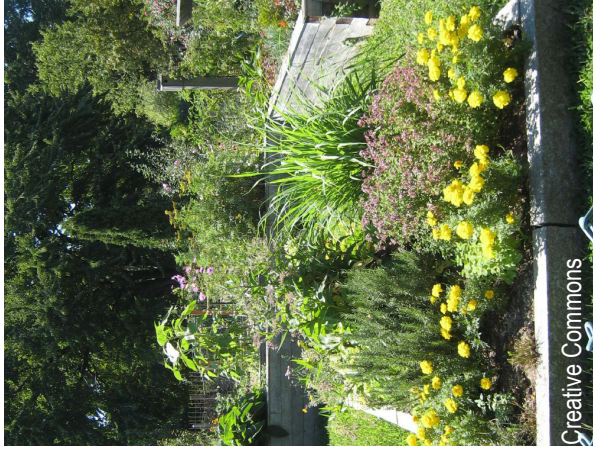
Many communities have transformed vacant lots into gardens. In fact, “gardening is America’s favorite outdoor leisure pastime” (Harnik, 83). These gardens typically include food plants, flowers, or native and natural plants and may include a variety of amenities for gardeners such as benches, sheds, and access to water and equipment. They can take on many shapes and sizes, from entire blocks to small parcels in completely built up neighborhoods. Regardless of their diverse appearances, gardens in urban and suburban areas provide the opportunity for local residents to work together to enhance their neighborhood.

There are numerous benefits to gardening on vacant land including expanding park-like spaces, supplying food, growing social capital, raising property values and educating youth (Harnik, 83). In short, gardens can create a “defensible space”, a place that the community is invested in and protective of (Schukoske, 356). Often, community members take on an ownership role of the garden, maintaining and monitoring the property. This can reduce crime and trash dumping as well as alleviate government responsibilities. The process of gardening and maintaining neighborhood property strengthens “networks, norms and social trust that facilitate coordination and cooperation” (Schukoske, 354).

Another important component of community gardening is education between gardeners. This education component can reflect the actual work of gardening such as best practices for planting, maintenance and harvesting. Similarly, residents can educate each other on food preparation, cooking and canning. This education about gardening and food can occur across cultural boundaries which can help to connect diverse groups (Schukoske, 357). Different residents bring their unique knowledge and experiences of food and plants to the garden but they are all connected in their mutual desire to grow and beautify the neighborhood.

Local Example: Gardens in the Park

Vacant lots, open land, and unused park space serve as a particularly important opportunity for Rosemount’s effort to create community gathering spaces. The city currently has community garden plots for rent at five municipal parks: Flint Hills, Lion’s Park, Biscayne Park, Jaycee Park and Winds Park. Plots cost \$35 to rent and are twenty feet by twenty feet (Voegelé). As described by Schukoske, gardening can bridge different ethnic boundaries which is important for communities that continue to grow and attract new, diverse residents, such as Rosemount (Schukowski, 357). Similarly, gardening can span across generations and is kid-friendly which is important because the community has so many new, young families. These benefits, paired with the increased interest in gardening in urban areas, allowing open land to be used for planting will provide a space for residents to gather, teach each other and share food.



Fenway Community Garden



Biscayne Park, Rosemount



COMMUNITY GATHERING SPACES

Fitness Centers

The federal report “Healthy People in Healthy Communities” serves as a guide to healthy living at the community level. In surveys completed by communities, the report reveals that farmers markets, public workout facilities and trails and walkways were some of the most desirable amenities for creating healthier communities (Whaley & Haley, 250). Interestingly, all of these elements have social and community building features as well. Rather than valuing private or in home solutions, survey participants envisioned improving health at a community-wide scale. This can be attributed to a “strong association between physical activity and health-related quality of life” (Whaley & Haley, 252).

Some of the most common group fitness activities include yoga, zumba, dance, conditioning, circuits and cycling or “spin”, many of which happen at private gyms or studios which require memberships. Unfortunately, this can create many barriers for residents to actively participate. The costs of travel, membership and class fees can be prohibitive for lower and middle income residents. To overcome this challenge, some cities have engaged in creating public indoor and outdoor facilities that are either free or very low cost for residents. “Open Gyms” programs can be a great opportunity to create indoor exercise spaces for residents (Whaley & Haley, 251). These programs open up gymnasiums at community rec centers and schools to allow the general public to use the space after hours. While there are costs for staffing these programs, they are effective at reducing overall cost because they take advantage of already existing space and equipment.

Local Example: Nickie Carrigan Fitness

There are numerous gyms and fitness centers in Rosemount offering a variety of classes for members including yoga, zumba, weight lifting, conditioning and other group activities. The Nickie Carrigan Fitness Center is a locally owned gym offering a variety of group workout opportunities and community events.

One particularly popular activity at the Center is the Challenge Group. A Challenge Group is a small class of students who work to hold each other accountable and become healthier throughout a short period of time. Many participants have thoroughly enjoyed the group for the camaraderie it builds (Nickie Carrigan Fitness). Participants claim that that the friendships they established through participation in the program have brought them closer to their neighbors and have inspired them to live fit (Nickie Carrigan Fitness). The Center also hosts community-wide events that have been highly popular. Recently, they hosted a zumba class for the community. Rather than paying a traditional class fee, participants could come and learn the dance for free and also contribute canned goods to a food drive (Nickie Carrigan Fitness). This event provided an opportunity for participants to be active and helped to unite the community around the goal of healthy living.



Creative Commons

Group Fitness Classes



COMMUNITY EVENTS

Poster from Nickie Carrigan Fitness



COMMUNITY GATHERING SPACES

Coffee Shops + Cafes

Coffee shops provide a unique gathering space opportunity, particularly for people who do not affiliate with other major organizations within the community. For example, for residents who do not have children in school or are not affiliated with a religious institution, coffee shops can provide a much needed social space. Without third spaces like a coffee shop, these residents can feel alienated from the main social groups in the community (Waxman, 51).

One of the most important aspects of coffee shops as successful gathering spaces is the role of “the regulars”. As described in her article “The Coffee Shop: Social and Factors in Influencing Space Attachment”, Lisa Waxman argues that “it is the regulars who give the space its character and who assume that on any given visit, some of the gang will be there” (Waxman, 46). These regular customers are able to create a community in the coffee shop, between other patrons and the staff. In fact, “regular coffee shop patrons felt a strong attachment to their chosen coffee shop as well as the community in which they resided” (Waxman, 51).

Another aspect of successful coffee shops is the physical characteristics of the space. In successful places, patrons stay for long periods of time and have a sense of ownership over the space. Specifically, they may have a favorite seat or table and routine in the shop (Waxman, 46). Other aspects of the shop including cleanliness, aroma and lighting are also important and can dictate the types of activities that happen in the shop (Waxman, 43). For example, the presence of small tables meant for 1 or 2 people implies different uses, such as independent studying, than arrangements of arm chairs or larger working tables for gatherings or group meetings. Creating spaces that are accommodating to groups will encourage community gathering and the creation of a social space for residents.

Local Example: Morning Glory's Bakery Cafe

The City of Rosemount currently has three coffee shops: a Caribou Coffee, a Starbucks, and the independently owned Morning Glory's Bakery Cafe. While all three provide opportunities to relax and gather, Morning Glory's Bakery Cafe has been highly successful at creating a vibrant third space for shop patrons. Located in Downtown Rosemount, it is considered to be the “best kept secret in Downtown” (Morning Glory's Bakery Cafe). According to patrons, the shop is a “wonderful UNIQUE place” (Paul L., Yelp) and is considered to be a “mom and pop store” with a one of a kind character that is not matched by the national chains (Paul P., Yelp). The unique character of the cafe and its location in the heart of Downtown Rosemount make it an important gathering space for the residents of the city.



Morning Glory's Bakery Cafe



COMMUNITY GATHERING SPACES

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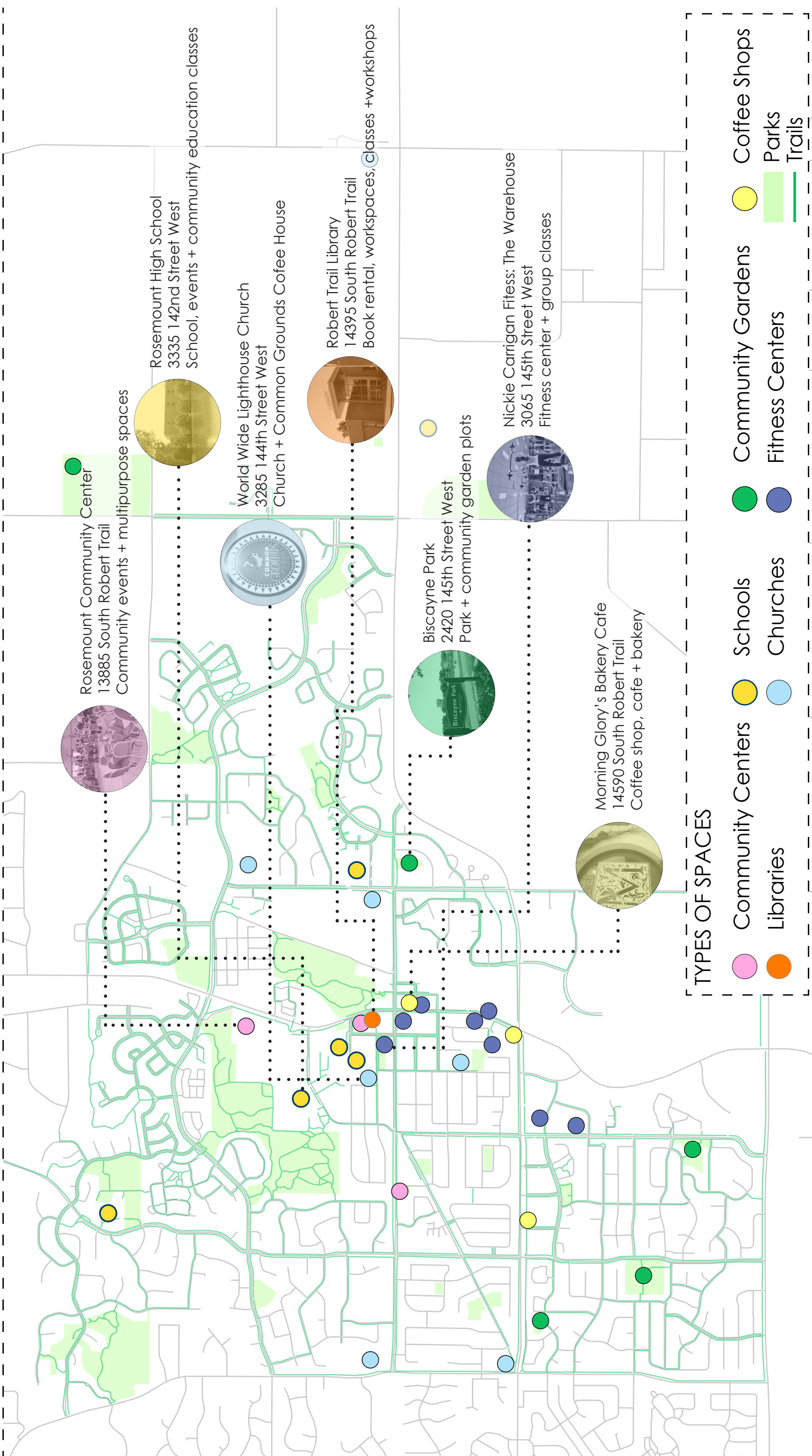
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COMMUNITY GATHERING SPACES

Rosemount, MN



Case Studies in Community Gathering Places

By Rachel Kerber

Part of the Rosemount and U of M partnership through the Resilient Community Project, is looking into community gathering spaces, and answering the question of what are the characteristics of place-making in a suburban setting. Rosemount is an outer-ring suburb of Minneapolis, with the population of around 22,000. Established in 1856 Rosemount was a well-established town before urban sprawl met up with it and incorporated it into the metro area. A redesign and reclamation of the former Gopher Ordnance Works (now known as Umore park) will be inviting many more people into Rosemount, plans to double the population size by 2050. Currently the historic downtown area is underutilized having been cut off from the community by new highways and convenient strip malls and box stores.

Place-making is a multi-faceted approach to the planning, design and management of public spaces. Capitalizes on a local community's assets, inspiration, and potential, with the intention of creating public spaces that promote people's health, happiness, and wellbeing. This paper will discuss three ways of place-making, all from a bottom up, community based process. Giving strategies on how to engage community members to take ownership of their community. Starting with a traditional approach to place-making and visiting the town of Oregon City and looking at how they

revitalized their downtown. Then looking at two examples of community engagement from Project M, a one-day event and an ongoing, permanent engagement opportunity.

Oregon City is an outer ring suburb of Portland, OR, on the boarder of the urban growth boundary, with a population of about 30,000. Much like Rosemount Oregon City was a well-established city before being surrounded by the urban sprawl of Portland. While Portland does have a system set up to prevent sprawl to continue, and to encourage densification. Also like Rosemount, Oregon City has a former industrial site that is being redeveloped and will invite new people into their community. Again mimicking the situation in Rosemount, Oregon City's historic downtown area has been bypassed by new highways, and convenient strip malls and box stores. Oregon City has been successfully revitalizing and bringing the community and businesses back into the downtown.

The revitalization of the historic downtown in Oregon City can be attributed to the volunteer run non-profit The Downtown Oregon City Association (DOCA). A group partnered with the National Main Street Center, and used the Main Street Four Point Approach to get the community back. DOCA is successful because they are not only are the

main stakeholders, but also the stewards of the downtown. The mission of DOCA is to “work together as facilitators, coordinators, and together with partners as a catalyst to generate a positive downtown image, preserve historic and cultural landmarks, and stimulate economic vitality and investment in our downtown and in Oregon City.”

(downtownoregoncity.org). Working within the framework of their mission DOCA has a strong vision for the future of the downtown, they “see Downtown Oregon City as a thriving and vibrant mix of economically viable and unique businesses, activities, restaurants and housing that attracts local residents and visitors and that entices future residents and businesses to relocate into the area. As the heart and soul of our historic community, downtown connects us with each other, to our rich heritage as the first city of the Oregon Territory and to the larger metropolitan area (downtownoregoncity.org).

Going deeper and bringing to light what has worked for Oregon City the trademarked Main Street Four Point Approach, will be discussed briefly (more details can be found at <http://www.preservationnation.org/main-street/about-main-street/the-approach/>). The first point is *organization*. Organization is about connecting with stakeholders, building partnerships, and volunteer recruitment. The second point is *promotion*. Promotion is

about creating a positive image, and telling your main street story. Oregon City has been working heavily on promotion and using the internet and social media to their advantage having a easy to use webpage, and a instagram presence. The third point is *design*. Design is about safety, preservation of historic character, and creating an inviting environment. Along with design and creating an inviting environment, DOCA has a commitment to public art. The summer of 2014 artists Vicki Wilson and John Larsen, created art deco inspired tulip attachments for 5 street lights on Main Street. Their primary goal was to create a unifying element for the streetscape. The fourth point is *economic restructuring*. Economic restructuring is about strengthening existing assets, diversifying the economic base, and creative reuse of historic properties.

The next group of case studies are from a group called Project M. Project M is a design collaborative that is focused on “thinking wrong”. Project M is for creative people who want to contribute to communities, and Project M helps to find platforms to aid in collaboration to create ideas and projects. While Project M has many great projects that inspire communities to get and stay involved, I picked two that I am particularly interested in, Pizza Farm and Pielab.

Pizza Farm was a one day event in Canaan, CT. The rural county is economically diverse and Project M hosted a pizza day in downtown. Local farms provided the ingredients for the pizzas, from flour to sausage. This event brought people together over food, allowing community members who wouldn't normally sit down and talk to each other share the common bounty from the land and conversation.

Pielab located in Hale County, AL, was started with a partner group HERO and was using pie as a way to bring a racially tense, and a town in a economic low point together over dessert. Pie worked very well for this, everyone likes it, many of the ingredients are grown in the area, and it isn't a thing you can pick up and leave with (like coffee). Pielab was funded by a \$100,000 grant and is operated by community members. Pielab moved from a side street and opened up shop on Main Street, it was the first new business to open there in many years. Pielab is part pie shop and part design studio, bringing more then just an open table and dessert to the community. Pielab provides a third space for people, a space where one can go and gather with friends without having to play host. It is a place to meet new people and have a neutral area to discuss futures for the community. Pielab has grown since its start in 2009, Project M has turned over the reigns to the community, and more food then pie is served. The

lab, as people call it now, hosts' music and trains people in a commercial kitchen, and how to run a business. Pielab has a connection to the local community college as well. The concept behind the Pielab is very simple, it is a two part approach: 1, Pie + Ideas = Conversation , 2, Conversation + Design = Social Change (<http://www.projectmlab.com/PieLab>).

When discussing some of Project M's work and the community William Drenttel, a co-founder of Design observer and host of Pizza Farm, thinks how food brings people together can create change. Drenttel says, "Food is the new revolution. It cuts across economic lines, supports individual health and the environment, and is centered around ideas of community. It's the local economy at its best, at its most sustainable." (<http://designobserver.com/feature/pizza-farm/10597>).

While the Resilient City Project has us working with the city government directly, the examples I briefly discussed are from volunteers, and other groups. The examples are all forms of bottom-up place-making, communities getting together, getting talking to each other and taking ownership. I do think the city government can play a role in supporting a bottom-up approach to place-making. The city could set up a system within government to allow for the flow of ideas from the community groups. They

could also invite outside groups into community to jumpstart the people, show them that it can be done. Another option could be to set up a grant, for community organizations or a grant class so people know there is funding out there. Since as discussed throughout the course and prevalent in each example about is that the key to successful gathering spaces is, collaboration. Through collaboration with outside groups the city of Rosemount could organize the community around revitalizing downtown and making the entire downtown area a district of gathering.

Rosemount Community Gathering Places Proposal

By Kristine Clarke

Rosemount, Minnesota has an interesting history and background. Its geological area was originally the terminal moraine of a glacier, which resulted in many pothole ponds in the northern part of the city (Rosemount). In the southern section of Rosemount there was a treeless prairie, which was used for farming. The city was originally inhabited by the Lower Band Mdewakanton of the Santee Sioux tribe, and the land was turned over to the federal government on August 5, 1851 by the leader of the New Ulm Indian uprising, Chief Little Crow (Rosemount). There is also an abundance of Irish tradition in Rosemount, including Leprechaun Days, and a shamrock included on all of the banners. Though Scottish men, William and Walter Strathern and C.H, Carr, originally settled in the city they were followed by many immigrants who were Irish Catholics (Rosemount). The city has become the home of a much more diverse group since Rosemount's population has drastically grown in the past couple of decades.

Rosemount is a suburban city that neighbors Eagan and Apple Valley, and is about 15 miles south of the Twin Cities. It is about a thirty-minute commute via car and an hour-long commute via bus. The city prides itself on being a "community with both a small town and large metropolitan city atmospheres (Rosemount)." There are about 22,420 people living in Rosemount with the average age, as of 2012, being 34.7 years of age (City Data). The city provides both prominent public and private schools and affordable homes. This allows it to be the perfect place for a new and growing family. The town has multiple business including Flint Hills Resources, Spectro Alloys, and Hawking's Chemical. Rosemount is also the regional

home base for the National Guard. The city of Rosemount covers 36 square miles, and 302 acres of land has been preserved for 23 parks (Rosemount).

Before ever visiting Rosemount I decided I wanted to work on the Resilient Communities Project, specifically the Community Gathering Space Project. While driving through the town of Rosemount via South Roberts Trail, I realized that the downtown area feels very underdeveloped. It appears to be stuck in it's very own "awkward faze." Rosemount has a feeling of a city that

grew too quickly and was never able to find character, which is not unusual for an up and coming city. There are many great elements that can be found in the downtown area of Rosemount, however there is disconnect throughout the town. Some of the strong elements are the banners that depict a clover, celebrating the town's



Irish roots, and the slogan "Spirit of Pride and Progress." During warmer seasons there appears to be hanging plants on some of the light poles, trees near the sidewalks, and other plants that have been placed around the city. Rosemount also has two sculptures. The first statue is the *Triskele* created by artist Foster Willey is inspired by a Celtic spiral and celebrates the cities Irish roots. The other sculpture is located behind the Carbone's Pizzeria and Celts Irish Pub & Grill. The big issue however is that these strong elements feel like they were just randomly placed in their locations. Through this proposal for the Resilient Communities Project I will recommend design elements that could be easily reproduced throughout the city of Rosemount and create a cohesiveness that the city needs. These design elements

will be recommended for the following specific areas; in between Carbone's Pizzeria and Celts Irish Pub & Grill, the Steeple Center, the Robert Trail Library, and the sidewalks on South Robert Trail.



In order to develop Rosemount's downtown charm I looked at other cities that are commonly visited by a lot of people and have a lot of character. I thought of cities like Stillwater, Edina, and Red wing. Stillwater has a bustling downtown area that attracts people from all over. The attraction is the antique stores, restaurants, the river, and the historic lift bridge, which is currently under construction. Edina has two areas that attract people, Centennial Park and 50th and France. These areas, unlike Stillwater, are not historic. They are both man made and rather contemporary areas. Centennial Park provides an "oasis" which is conveniently located by restaurants like Pin Strips and Q. Cumbers. The 50th and France area is a business neighborhood with over "175 retailers and professional services ranging from apparel for men, women and children; jewelers... an art-house movie theatre, countless specialty and gift boutiques, a gourmet grocery store and so much more (50th and France)." Red Wing attracts people with its charm and wide range of activities that are fit for both groups and individuals. There are antique stores, and a large presence of art including pop up shows and theater. The town also supports local businesses and traditions. For over twenty years Redwing has worked with local florist Sargent's Nursery in order to hang Flowering Moss Baskets through the downtown area (Redwing). The thing that all three of these cities have in common is that their popular areas are cohesive when it comes to their architecture and design. Their buildings, sidewalks, and landscape look like they were built around the same time and everything appears planned out.

In order to find Rosemount's charm I will be looking to Foster Willey's *Triskele* sculpture created in 2010 for inspiration. This statue was made of Bronze,

Cast Stone, Flagstone and Up-lighting (Willey, 2010). Willey describes the *Triskele* as:

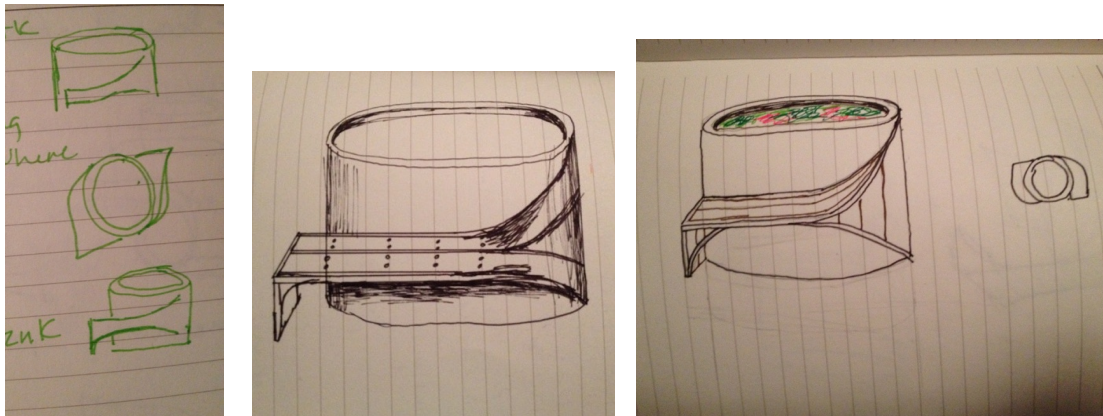
[A] freestanding sculpture that is inspired by Irish iconography and contributes to the strong Irish sentiments of the Rosemount community. It serves as the focal point for the Robert Trail Library, complimenting the strong contemporary lines of the architecture. The triple spiral or triskele appears in various forms of Celtic art and consists of three interlocking spirals. It is a symbol for eternal life and one of the oldest symbols of human spirituality. (2010)



In order to bring consistency and charm to Rosemount, I will examine Willey's sculpture in order to create elements that will be easily reproduced. Using the *Triskele* to inspire the designs for my Rosemount recommendations is a way for the down town area to stay cohesive, modern, and pay homage to the Irish heritage of the city. I also believe that in developing this space that more people will visit and utilize the downtown area of Rosemount.

The first element I would like to recommend to the city's downtown area would be a combination of a bench and a garden. These would ideally be place in two locations one in front of the Steeple Center and another between Carbone's Pizzeria and Celts Irish Pub & Grill. When originally designing these benches/gardens I thought of just creating a circular garden with a circular bench

that covered the entire circumference of the garden in order to create the maximum seating space. When thinking about this further I thought it would be even more innovative and creative to mimic the shape of the *Triskele*. In doing this I would be able to bring individuality to the city while giving a nod to the Irish heritage of the city. These benches would be 6 feet long and made of cedar. I believe cedar would be a great choice for the benches as it is durable and is easily stained or painted. This would mean the benches would hold up and would not need a lot of maintenance. The benches would be built along with a fence where ivy would be able to grow. This would bring a natural green into the downtown area. The garden would be created from a grey cast stone in order to utilize a material used by Willey and create a modern feel to the garden. The garden would have a 3 feet radius. The garden would be able to be utilized by either the local restaurants or the community, depending on how the city would like to use them.

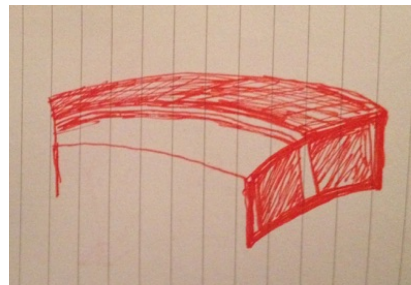
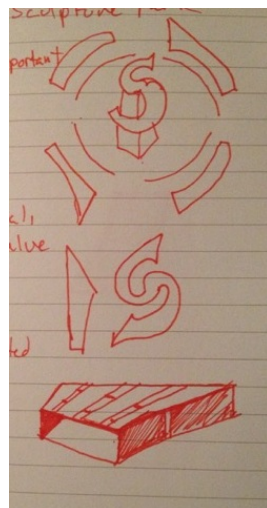
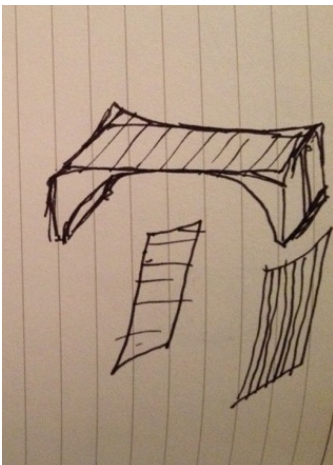


I would like to propose a more minimal version of a bench that could be placed around the *Triskele* and throughout the downtown area. While designing the benches there were a few different designs before I decided on the final version. The first few versions of the bench mimicked the end flares of the *Triskele*. There

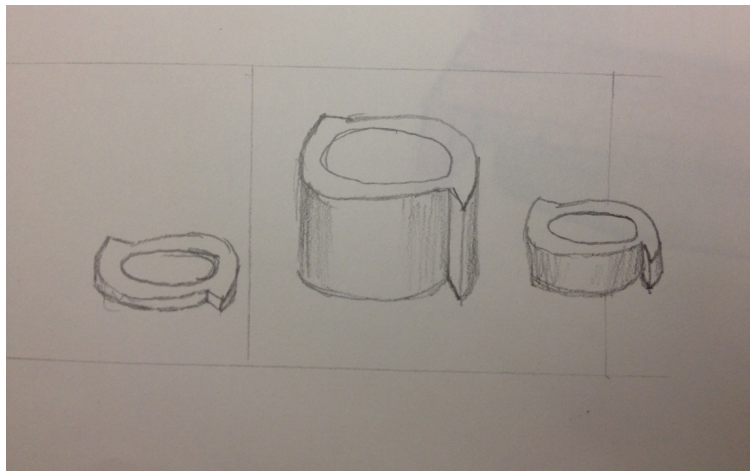
was originally an intention to make the bench seats curve so that they created an illusion of a circle around the statue. When I decided that these benches should be placed around the city I chose to go in a different direction. The bench that I decided on will be 6 feet long and will also be made of cedar. The design of the benches are meant to be simple and modern while using the cedar to bring it back to a natural small town feel. The design mimics the shape of the base of the statue, which is a quadrilateral shape. For placement at the Robert Trail Library I would like to recommend that the city look back to what



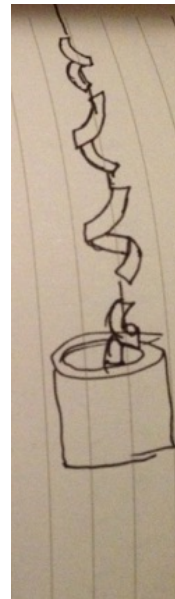
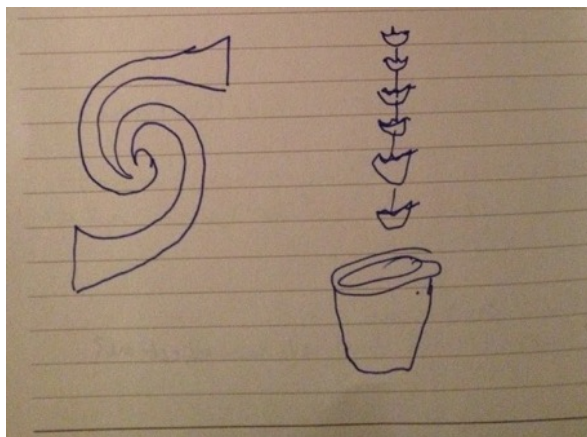
Foster Willey originally had sketched out for the *Triskele*. Willey planned on having paths leading towards the sculpture and having benches nearby so that people could enjoy the public art piece. I would like to propose that the city puts a bench on each side of the *Triskele* that way the community can enjoy different perspectives of the statue.



One element that is already being used in Rosemount is the planters that are placed casually around the city. This was an element that I felt had great intentions, but was also an element that could be used in order to create more cohesiveness in the downtown area. I originally started with the desire to create minimal and modern planters by creating cylinder planters that were different heights. After sketching out a few different versions of this design however I felt it was too simple and needed something to make them stand out a little bit more. I then thought of bringing the same concept that was used in the bench and garden combination, which was imitating the shape of the *Triskele*. By doing this I designed a planter that was minimal, modern and had a little extra to make it visually interesting. The planters would be made of cast stone similar to the garden and statue. They would range between 1-3 feet in height and 6 to 12 inches in radius. The planters would also be grouped in three or be singularly placed around Rosemount's downtown area.



The last design element that I would like to propose is a rain catcher. This will involve two separate parts, one being a hanging rain chain and second a rain catcher container. The container will mimic the design for the planters, except it will have an attached hose, and an easy thumb valve at the top of the hose. This will allow for easy access for both businesses and the community. The hanging rain chain will involve a spiral metal piece, inspired by the *Triskele*, made of aluminum. Aluminum is a less expensive metal that can handle the natural elements like rainstorms. The hanging rain chain was originally designed a lot narrower, but after thinking about its purpose I realized that they needed to be wider in order to collect the rainwater. These rain catchers would be placed on any business in the downtown area that would like to participate. They would preferably be close to the gardens or planters so that they can be used to water the plants. The rain catcher would also be able to use to give water to pets.



The design proposal I am recommending for the Rosemount Resilient Communities Project will pay homage to the cities Irish heritage in a way that is not over the top or obnoxious. It is a way to respect the cities background while not intimidating or turning off people who are not of a similar heritage. It is a modern and sustainable way to make the downtown area cohesive. It would also bring character and charm to the downtown and hopefully attract local people to spend more time in that specific area. The proposal would even open the door to potential programming and the planning of special events downtown Rosemount.

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